

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, May 3, 2018

Sacramento, CA

RMAC Members Present	RMAC Members Absent
Co-chair Lesa Osterholm Andrée Soares Rich Ross Bart Cremers Billie Roney Don Watson Lance Criley	Co-chair Marc Horney Russell Chamberlin John van Duyn Sheryl Landrum Katie Delbar, ex officio member
RMAC Staff	Department Staff
Edith Hannigan Eliana Camargo Dan Stapleton	Rich Walker

Items appear in the order they were presented on the agenda.

Approve March 2018 Minutes

05-18-01

Member Soares made a motion to approve the March 2018 minutes. Member Watson seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Watson Aye
 Criley Abstain
 Cremers Aye
 Roney Aye
 Soares Aye
 Ross Aye
 Osterholm Aye

The motion passed with four absences and one abstention.

Membership Update

Mr. Lance Criley introduced himself to the Committee. Ms. Hannigan mentioned the appointments of Russ Chamberlin and Don Watson to the Committee by the Board at their March 7, 2018, meeting.

2017 Forest and Rangelands Assessment Report Update – Rich Walker, Research Program Specialist

Mr. Walker, Research Program Specialist with CAL FIRE, provided RMAC with an update on the new Forest and Rangelands Assessment Report, slated to be approved by the Director later this spring. Mr. Walker highlighted specific rangeland results in the report,

The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

including rangeland health criteria; conversion to non-range uses and the number of conservation easements, federal grazing allotments, and Williamson Act contracts; the economics of cattle ranching and rural communities in California; and wildland fire.

Joint Board/Fish & Game Commission Policy on Hardwoods Updates – Eliana Camargo, Environmental Scientist

Ms. Camargo updated the Committee on the work she is conducting in conjunction with Dr. Rick Standiford, UC Berkeley, to update the 1994 Joint Policy on Hardwoods between the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Fish and Game Commission. The Committee was presented with a copy of the presentation Dr. Standiford gave at the Board meeting on April 11, 2018, and the existing policy language. Ms. Camargo indicated that the update is in the very beginning stages; she is conducting background research and soliciting comments from the Department of Fish and Wildlife to gauge how hardwoods management has changed in California since the Policy was signed and how to best focus an update to the document.

The Committee indicated their support for an update to the 1994 Policy and contribute to its development and content.

Legislative Update

Ms. Hannigan provided the Committee with an update on legislation of interest to the Committee.

2018-2020 Priorities

Ms. Hannigan led a discussion of the most recent 2018 Priorities draft document. With some minor changes, the Committee approved the priorities as presented.

05-18-02 Member Soares made a motion to approve the 2018-2010 Priorities with the discussed changes. Member Ross seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Watson	Aye
Criley	Aye
Cremers	Aye
Roney	Aye
Soares	Aye
Ross	Aye
Osterholm	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with four absences.

Certified Rangeland Manager Program Regulatory Update – Dan Stapleton, Assistant Executive Officer for Licensing

Mr. Stapleton provided the Committee with an update on the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC) and their April workshop on regulatory changes to the Certified Rangeland Manager program (CRM). The PFEC is seeking Board counsel assistance to craft regulations relating to transparency in the CRM licensing process, moral character, integrity, etc. The PFEC has not decided whether to maintain Cal-Pac SRM as technical advisors for CRM licensing or leave the program entirely within the

PFEC with a Cal-Pac SRM representative on the Committee. These regulatory proposals will be discussed further at the PFEC meeting on June 7.

Current Focus Groups Update

a) Water Quality – Lahontan and Central Valley Water Boards Federal Nonpoint Source Pollutant Permit Development

Ms. Hannigan indicated that she had no updates from the Water Boards on this project. Co-chair Osterholm requested a representative from the Lahontan Water Board attend the next RMAC meeting to give an update on the proposed permit.

b) Wolf Impacts to Rangeland

Member Roney gave an update on wolf activity in her area. The Committee discussed how to best represent ranchers and their concerns with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and other agencies. They brought up the following issues:

- Lack of clarity regarding which particular species are being protected by CESA/ESA (wolf-dog hybrids prevalent)
- Undetermined wildlife impacts from wolves – are any species declining?
- No environmental analysis conducted on the impacts of the loss of grazing on particular landscapes due to wolf presence.

The Committee discussed potential action on their part:

- Working on developing a problem statement
- Creating a network for information flow
 - Wolf sightings, kills, etc
 - Other states will call ranchers when wolves are in the area – RMAC could advocate for a similar program in California
- Support delisting the wolf
- Presentation to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Additional impacts that have not been addressed
 - Timber harvesting?

Updates from partner organizations & Public Forum

Dr. Susan Marshall, Humboldt State University, announced that the school will be having a 50th anniversary for the first rangeland resource graduates on campus in October.

Ms. Hannigan discussed updates to the Strategic Fire Plan for California, the July field tour during the Board meeting in Bishop, and confirmed the Committee would like to do a presentation at the June Board meeting on the Water Boards' federal nonpoint pollution permit development.

Co-chair Osterholm asked for an update on the Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and the treatment of rangelands and prescribed herbivory within it. Ms. Hannigan let her know public comments on the VTP PEIR were currently being reviewed by the Board and the document revised as needed, and assured the Co-chair that the Board did seriously contemplate RMAC's letter.

Meeting Adjourned.